



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

For Immediate Release

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FIRE SPRINKLERS REQUIRED IN NEW MONTGOMERY SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, STARTING TOMORROW

Beginning tomorrow, all permits for new single-family homes built in Montgomery County will require the installation of fire sprinklers – to protect property and lives.

“Sprinkler systems can be the difference between life and death for County residents,” said Councilmember Phil Andrews, who sponsored the legislation and chairs the County’s Public Safety Committee. “They mean better protection for the biggest investment most of us will ever make – our home – and also help lower insurance costs.”

Prior to the legislation being signed into law last October 15, fire sprinklers were required in all new multi-family dwellings and townhouses. Between 1991 and 2001, there were 52 deaths in non-sprinkled residences in Montgomery County – and zero deaths in sprinkled residences.

Prince George’s County has required sprinklers in all new residential buildings since 1989 and the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg both adopted the requirement in 2002. County residents can also get up to a 50 percent County property tax credit for retrofitting current homes with sprinklers.

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